

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06

SIL-01 PC-04 OPR-02 RSR-01 /120 W

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O R 092127Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5149

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

DOD/DIA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3549

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI PINT PINS MILI

SUBJ: MILITARY ENTER CABINET

REF: (A) SANTIAGO 2940; (B) SANTIAGO 3534

1. SUMMARY. ALLENDE NAMES NEW "CABINET OF NATIONAL SECURITY" WITH THREE CINCS AND CARABINEROS CHIEF AS MINISTERS. LETELIER MOVES TO MININTERIOR WHILE ALMEYDA RETURNS TO OLD POST AS MINFONRELS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT MIDDAY CEREMONY TODAY PRES ALLENDE ANNOUNCED RESTRUC-
TURING OF GOVT AND SWORE IN THREE MILITARY COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF,
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CARABINEROS, AND UP POLITICIANS AS
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"CABINET OF NATIONAL SECURITY." CINCS PRATS (ARMY), RUIZ

(AIR FORCE), MONTERO (NAVY) NOW, RESPECTIVELY, MINISTERS OF DEFENSE, PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION, AND FINANCE. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CARABINEROS JOSE MARIA SEPULVEDA NAMED MINISTER OF LANDS AND COLONIZATION. NEW CABINET MINISTERS WILL PRESUMABLY RETAIN CINC POSITIONS AS WELL, THOUGH, IF PAST EXPERIENCE FOLLOWED, NEXT-RANKING FLAG OFFICERS WILL BE NAMED ACTING CINCS.

3. FOUR MEN, NONE OF WHOM RECOGNIZED AS POLITICAL POWER-HOUSES, LEAVE CABINET. THEY ARE MARTONES (PUBLIC WORKS), CUELLAR (LANDS), MATTE (HOUSING), AND BRIONES (INTERIOR--WHO, PERHAPS MORE THAN OTHERS, PRESERVED HIS REPUTATION DURING HIS BRIEF TENURE AS A MAN OF OPENNESS AND FAIRNESS). FOUR OTHERS PLAY MUSICAL CHAIRS. THEY ARE ALMEYDA (FROM DEFENSE TO FONRELATIONS), LETELIER (FON RELATIONS TO INTERIOR), FLORES (FINANCE TO GOVT SEC GEN), AND PALMA (GOVT SEC GEN TO HOUSING). PRES. REJECTED RESIGNATIONS PRESENTED LAST EVENING OF SEVEN OTHER CABINET MINISTERS AND MINISTERIAL-LEVEL EXEC V.P. VUSKOVIC OF CORFO AND DIRECTOR MARTNER OF ODEPLAN.

4. NEW BREAKDOWN REDUCES BY ONE PS, PR, AND NON-MILITARY INDEPENDENT CABINET CONTINGENTS AND LEAVES API WITHOUT REPRESENTATION. MARTONES HAD BEEN LAST REMAINING MEMBER OF ORIGINAL ALLENDE CABINET. UP INDIVIDUAL PARTY PROPORTIONS NOW READ PS-3, PCCH-3, PR-2, IC, MAPU (GAZMURI) AND NON-UNIFORMED INDEPENDENTS ONE EACH (REF A).

5. IN STATEMENT PRECEDING SWEARING-IN, PRES. RECOUNTED CHAOS OF EVENTS OF "SEDITION" AND "SABOTAGE," NOTING JUNE 29 ABORTIVE MILITARY COUP AND RECENT DISCOVERY OF SUBVERSION IN NAVY AS PROOF THAT FAR-RIGHT AND ULTRA-LEFT ACTING "HAND-IN-HAND" TO SUBVERT NATION'S INSTITUTIONS, OPPOSE GOVT AND PROMOTE CIVIL WAR. ALLENDE ONCE AGAIN DENOUNCED CONCEPT OF AN EXTREMIST "PARALLEL ARMY," STATED THAT NEW MINISTERS WOULD FORM "CABINET OF NATIONAL SECURITY" TO FIGHT SEDITION "WHEREVER IT COMES FROM" AND TO ESTABLISH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ORDER.

6. SPECIFIC TASKS OF NEW GOVT MENTIONED BY ALLENDE WILL BE TO END TRANSPORT STRIKE AND OBTAIN LEGISLATION REGARDING THREE AREAS, ECONOMIC CRIMES, WORKERS PARTICIPATION IN INDUSTRY, AND ROLE CONFIDENTIAL

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OF SMALL AND MEDIUM INDUSTRIES AMONG OTHER SUBJECTS. IN SPECIAL CALL TO WORKERS, PRES EMPHASIZED THAT HE WOULD ALWAYS BE THEIR "COMPANERO PRESIDENTE" AND THAT NEW CABINET IN ONE OF "PUTTING THINGS IN ORDER" AND NOT OF FALLING BACK FROM REVOLUTIONARY GOALS. ALLENDE ENDED BY CHARACTERIZING NEW CABINET AS NATION'S "LAST CHANCE" TO AVOID CIVIL WAR.

7. MORNING UP PRESS GREATLY UNDERPLAYED IMMINENT CABINET

CHANGE AND FEATURED INSTEAD EXHORTATIONS FOR LARGE PARTICIPATION IN THIS AFTERNOON'S SCHEDULED CUT RALLY. CUT PRES. FIGUEROA AND SECGEN CALDERON ARE ANNOUNCED SPEAKERS. HOWEVER, POSSIBILITY EXISTS PRES. WILL ALSO ADDRESS CROWD ONCE AGAIN TO SELL NEW CABINET TO WORKERS. VARIOUS PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, OPPOSITION-CONTROLLED LABOR UNIONS AND MERCHANTS HAVE CALLED ANTI-GOVT WORK STOPPAGE. MAJORITY OF BUSES REPORTEDLY STILL STRIKING BUT MANY WHICH HAVE AKEEN TO ROAD HAVE SUFFERED ROCK-THROWING ATTACKS, CAUSING UNION OF BUS DRIVERS REPRESENTING EMPLOYEES OF PRIVATELY OWNED BUSES TO GO ON STRIKE IN SANTIAGO AND ELSEWHERE IN DEMAND FOR POLICE PROTECTION. OTHER SCATTERED INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE HAVE BEEN REPORTED THROUGHOUT COUNTRY, AS TRUCK STRIKE APPARENTLY CONTINUES UNABATED. (IT IS STILL TOO EARLY, HOWEVER, FOR OPPOSITION REACTION TO NEW CABINET TO HAVE SURFACED.)

8. IN OTHER EVENTS, A GROUP OF PATRIA Y LIBERTAD MEMBERS SEIZED A SANTIAGO FM STATION EARLY EVENING AUGUST 8, TIED UP EMPLOYEES AND ESCAPED AFTER PLAYING PRE-RECORDED PROPAGANDA TAPE OVER THE AIR. SUPREME COURT RULED AUG 8 THAT NAVY COURTS RATHER THAN CIVILIAN JUDICIARY HAVE ULTIMATE JURISDICTION IN PROSECUTION OF ARAYA CASE. NAVY ANNOUNCED THAT 23 CREW MEMBERS FROM CRUISER LATORRE AND DESTROYER BLANCO ENCALADA HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN SUBVERSION PLOT.

9. COMMENT. NO MENTION MADE IN ALLENDE SPEECH OF CRITICAL ISSUE OF APPOINTMENTS TO UNDER SECRETARY AND LOWER ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS. MINISTRIES TO BE OCCUPIED BY MILITARY AND POLICE CINCS ARE NOT THE CABINET'S MOST POWERFUL ONES. MILITARY HAS ALWAYS HAD DE FACTO CONTROL OVER DEFENSE, AND MINISTRY OF LANDS A VIRTUAL NULLITY. PUBLIC WORKS-TRANSPORTATION MORE IMPORTANT PORTFOLIO AS TRANSPORT STRIKE ISSUES WILL NOW FALL TO FACH CINC RUIZ. FINANCE CAN BE IMPOR-

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TANT POSITION WHEN IN HANDS OF COMPETENT PROFESSIONAL, BUT UNDER AN ADMIRAL IT MAY BE LESS IMPORTANT THAN THAT OF ECONOMY WHICH STILL CONTROLLED BY PCCH'S LEADING ECONOMIST CADEMARTORI. REPEATED MILITARY DEMAND FOR DOMINANT CABINET PRESENCE WOULD SEEM NOT TO HAVE BEEN MET. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT OTHER ARRANGEMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN PRIVATELY SUBSCRIBED TO BY MILITARY AND PRES., BUT MILITARY MINISTERS ARE SURE TO ENCOUNTER GREAT FRUSTRATIONS AND DISAPPOINTMENTS VERY QUICKLY -- REGARDLESS OF WHATEVER ASSURANCES THEY FEEL THEY HAVE RECEIVED. ANOTHER UNKNOWN IN NEW EQUATION IS PS' POSITION. ALTAMIRANO ATTENDED SWEARING-IN CEREMONY, BUT FACT REMAINS THAT PARTY HAD TO GIVE UP ONE OF ITS SEATS TO MAKE ROOM FOR MILITARY AND THAT THE THREE PS MINISTERS (LETELIER, ALMEYDA AND JAIME TOHA) ARE KNOWN AS PRESIDENTIAL LOYALISTS. OUR FIRST IMPRESSION IS THAT CABINET'S MAKEUP DOES NOT GIVE GREAT PROMISE OF BEING ABLE TO SOLVE CHILE'S INTRACTABLE

PROBLEMS AND THAT THE NEW MINISTERS MAY NOT LAST MUCH LONGER
THAN THE OUTGOING CASE -- IF THAT.
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